(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and by when it is likely to be practically implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) (a) to (c) Tourist information on Chitrakoot is hosted on the website of Ministry of Tourism— www. incredibleindia.org

Private and public investments in tourism sector

†2318. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government propose to formulate a new scheme for increasing private and public investments in tourism sector;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether anytarget has been fixed by Government in this regard; and

(d)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tourism has a scheme of 'Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects' for increasing private public partnership/investments in tourism sector for taking up projects like tourist trains, cruise terminals, convention centres, golf courses etc. under which assistance is released on the basis of project proposals received and prioritized by the Ministry of Tourism. An amount of Rs. 30 crore has been allocated in the Plan Budget 2005-06 for this scheme.

The Ministry of Finance has come out with a Viability Gap Funding Scheme to assist Large Tourism Infrastructure Projects like International Convention Centres, etc. through Public Private Partnership mode.

New National Tourism Policy

†2319. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourism is an important source of revenue

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.